

Franciscan Friars statement 4/9/2019:

Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province, in a written statement issued through a spokesman, said, "HNP is aware of a number of abuse claims in the Buffalo diocese. The province cannot comment on the specifics of these claims since they are under active investigation. HNP has a zero tolerance policy and deplores misconduct of any kind. The province takes all claims seriously, whether they involve active, inactive or deceased friars, and whether they occurred decades ago. In accordance with HNP's policies and procedures to protect children and vulnerable adults - which are reviewed and monitored by an independent third party to ensure transparency and accountability - the province has retained independent investigators to investigate these abuse claims. Under the circumstances, with these claims alleging abuse that took place in the past - in some instances, upwards of 50 years ago, whereby accused and potential witnesses are deceased - HNP nevertheless is investigating these claims to the extent humanly possible, despite the difficulties and challenges they pose."